

the traverse begins). In the upper part it is nearly vertical and full of large stones, ready to fall at any minute. Since the route lies under these stones for at least three-quarters of an hour, it is evident that for this reason alone the climb is one to be avoided, and altogether it is most certainly not to be recommended to anyone looking for a pleasant day's scramble in the neighbourhood of Chamonix.

A. M. CARR-SAUNDERS.

[The first ascent of this face was made in 1906 by the late M. Beaujard, led by Joseph Ravel. It has since been many times repeated. A detailed account of the expedition by M. Cl. Joublot, together with a marked sketch of the route, is to be found in 'La Revue Alpine,' 1909, 357-362.]

ALPINE NOTES.

'BALL'S ALPINE GUIDE.' VOL. I. 'THE WESTERN ALPS.'—Copies of the new edition (1898) of this work, price 12s. net, can be obtained from all booksellers, or from Messrs. Stanford, 12 Long Acre, W.C.

'BALL'S ALPINE GUIDE,' THE CENTRAL ALPS. PART I.—A new edition (1907) of this portion of 'The Alpine Guide,' by the late John Ball, F.R.S., President of the Alpine Club, reconstructed and revised on behalf of the Alpine Club under the general editorship of A. V. Valentine-Richards, Fellow of Christ's College, Cambridge, is now ready, and can be obtained from all booksellers, or from Messrs. Stanford, 12 Long Acre, W.C. It includes those portions of Switzerland to the N. of the Rhône and Rhine valleys. Price 6s. 6d.

'BALL'S ALPINE GUIDE,' THE CENTRAL ALPS. PART II.—A new edition (1911) of this portion of 'The Alpine Guide,' by the late John Ball, F.R.S., President of the Alpine Club, reconstructed and revised on behalf of the Alpine Club under the general editorship of the Rev. George Broke, is now ready, and can be obtained from all booksellers, or from Messrs. Stanford, 12 Long Acre, W.C. It includes 'those Alpine portions of Switzerland, Italy, and Austria, which lie S. and E. of the Rhône and Rhine, S. of the Arlberg, and W. of the Adige.' Price 7s. 6d.

CORRIGENDA.—Vol. xxviii.

P. 370, for 1462 read 1492 (the original documents relating thereto are printed in Dr. Coolidge's edition of Simler).

P. 374, read *Col dei Viso* ; *cache* for *câche*.

P. 377 note. We are informed by Dr. Coolidge that this is the

'French' route on which Lieut. Bujon was killed in 1891—see 'Revue Alpine,' 1907, pp. 294 and 296.

P. 378, read Col de Vars and *Barcelonnette*.

P. 380, read Col de Vallonpierre.

P. 382, read Col de Chalance (crossed by Dr. Coolidge in 1887), who states that its N. side is also quite easy, and that the couloir on the Col de la Muande, crossed by him in 1880, is also quite harmless.

RETIREMENT OF THE REV. WILLIAM SPOTSWOOD GREEN, C.B.—Mr. Green, who is well known to all mountaineers as the explorer of the New Zealand Alps and of the Selkirks, and by his books 'The High Alps of New Zealand' and 'Among the Selkirk Glaciers,' has now retired from the Chief Inspectorship of Irish Fisheries. He was lately entertained at breakfast by the President and Council of the Royal Zoological Society of Ireland, and we cannot do better than reproduce the following remarks of one of his colleagues, Mr. T. P. Gill, secretary of the Department of Agriculture for Ireland.

Mr. T. P. Gill, in the course of his letter, wrote :

'You are certainly entertaining a very eminent and a very remarkable Irishman. His friends of the Royal Zoological Society know, as all his friends do, the fine and lovable qualities of his character. They know the daring and adventurous spirit which early in his career won him a place amongst explorers and travellers. They know his eminent services to science. But perhaps they do not know, as well as I have had the opportunity of doing during nearly fifteen years of intimate colleagueship, his exceptional gifts as an administrator, and his zeal in doing practical work for the benefit of Ireland. For more than twenty years in the office of Irish Fisheries, in the Congested Districts Board, and in the Department, his has been the chief mind devising and applying measures for the development of the Irish fisheries, sea and inland. And he brought to this work, at which he is a master expert, strong common-sense, an intimate knowledge of the people, and a broad human sympathy, tempered and regulated by a fine Irish sense of humour—ineestimable and rare things to find in combination with the qualities of the expert. I think it is practically true to say that Mr. Green is personally acquainted with every fisherman along the Irish coast and on our rivers and lakes, and in every fisherman's cottage his name is a household word.'—Extract from the *Dublin Express*, Jan. 18, 1915.

THE CALL OF THE BLOOD.—Among the many good Zurich 'Akademikers' none will dispute the palm for daring and ability on a great mountain to George and Maxwell Finch. They both took the engineering course at the Zurich Polytechnicum. When the war broke out George Finch was on the staff of the Royal College of Science, whilst Max Finch was on the engineering staff of the Furka railway. Without troubling about any commissions they

both immediately enlisted as privates in one of the service battalions of the Royal Fusiliers. George Finch is now a subaltern in the Gunners, while his brother may shortly be transferred to the Royal Engineers, where his special experience would of course be valuable. They both hail from Australia, which has furnished so many good soldiers for the guard of the Empire.

THE GUIDE KONRAD KAIN.—It will be remembered that Kain made a journey to New Zealand in 1914. The record of the ascents made is given in 'A.J.' xxviii. 345-6. He has now been appointed, by the New Zealand Department of the Interior, one of the official guides for the Mount Cook district. He is certain to find many willing pupils among the keen mountaineers of the Island.

CLUB HUTS.—An article in 'Alpina' of August 1 discusses in a very pertinent manner the burning question of the crowding of huts. It is pointed out that the existing huts amply suffice for some years to come for members of the S.A.C. and associated clubs, and the very obvious question is asked why the S.A.C. should continue to build new and enlarge its old huts for the benefit of 'outsiders.' The very acute remark is also made that this free use of the Club huts tends to militate against climbers joining the S.A.C., inasmuch as they enjoy almost as great privileges as members without paying the subscription. The issue before the S.A.C. is to find a means by which, while limiting the use of its huts to its own members and those of reciprocating clubs, it shall be made possible for young climbers of slender means to join the Club.

It has for some time been increasingly obvious that the overcrowding of the huts has made their use to the mountaineering members of the S.A.C. and affiliated clubs nothing less than a purgatory.

Some interesting figures of the number of visitors in 1913 are given, including the following huts :

	Total Number of Visitors.	Members of the S.A.C.
Bétemps	813	149
Schönbühl	377	83
Bertol	656	114
Chanrion	542	176
Orny	695	63
Britannia	740	287
Blümlisalp	1689	121
Mutthorn	1319	178
Concordia	556	161
Finsteraarhorn	260	98
Strahlegg	279	61
Gleckstein	309	77
Clariden	1089	166
Tschierva	1902	72

The percentage of members of the S.A.C. using the huts, compared with the total number of visitors, is for the huts in the different districts as follows :

Valais	22 per cent.
Bernese and Vaud	19 „
Schwyz and Uri	23 „
Grisons	14 „
Tessin	49 „

Any alteration in their old policy 'of the open door' which the Committee of the S.A.C. may decide to make has obviously the most ample support in these figures.

THE MATTERHORN HUTS.—The Hörnli hut is to be enlarged by the addition of a top floor to serve for sleeping accommodation. The obstinate resistance of the commune of Zermatt is the reason for the long delay in carrying out this elementary improvement.

Little progress could be made with the building of the Solvay hut owing to the enormous masses of snow.

A NEW GUIDE TO THE PENNINE ALPS.—The S.A.C. has determined to bring out the much needed new Guide to the Pennines. It is understood that it has been able to come to terms with the author of the 'Climbers' Guide' to use the very valuable notes which he has accumulated, so that a thoroughly reliable guide-book may be expected. It will be in German.

JAHRBUCH DES S.A.C.—It has been decided that owing to the War the next volume shall be published in 1916, thus dropping one year as was also the case in the Franco-Prussian War of 1870-1.

THE BOUQUETIN IN THE SWISS ALPS.—A further attempt is to be made to acclimatize the bouquetin in the Swiss Alps. The small colony on the Graue Hörner is reported to be doing well, and four specimens have now been put in the Piz d'Aela reserve between the Albula Valley and Oberhalbstein.

THE GROSSGLOCKNER.—Reference was made in 'A.J.' xxviii. 334-5 to a proposed sale of this mountain, the German buyer of which had intimated his intention of closing it to travellers. It is now stated that the German buyer has allowed the time fixed for completion to pass so that the sale has fallen through, for which no one will be sorry.

DEATH OF PIERRE GASPARD.—The doyen of Dauphiné guides, the proud conqueror of the Meije, has gone to his rest. He died at his home at St. Christophe on January 15. He was born on March 29, 1834.

An obituary notice of this great guide will appear in the May number of the JOURNAL.

DEATH OF JOSEPH CROUX.—Many of our readers will learn, with much regret, the death of this well-known Courmayeur guide, at the comparatively early age of about fifty-seven. It is hoped to publish details of his mountaineering career in the next number.

DEATH OF A VETERAN SWISS SURVEYOR.—The death on January 4 at Bern is announced of Herr Jacky Tayler at the age of eighty-two years. For no less than the last fifty-seven years he had been intimately associated with the Federal Topographical Bureau. He was the last survivor of the cartographers who worked under General Dufour, and was in active employment at the Bureau almost to the end. During the course of his long career Herr Jacky Tayler made many important ascents, but as these were practically all accomplished when surveying he has published little or nothing concerning them. Most of these ascents were in the Bernina, Albula, and Adula ranges. An interesting letter from him dealing with a trip in Vals Bregaglia and Codera [1882] will be found in the S.A.C. Jahrbuch for 1910. His death will be widely regretted.

NOTES ON THE CAUCASUS.

THE expeditions carried out by MM. Egger and Miescher referred to in 'A.J.' xxviii. p. 410 were as follows :

Kurmütschi (4058 m.)—Andurtschi (3914 m.).

Dschan-tugan-Tau (3899 m.).

Baschkara-Tau (4129 m.)—Gadül-Tau (4120 m.) and the snow summit (3900 m.) S. of Gadül.

Elbruz (on ski).

Tschegegem-Basch (4501 m.).

Tiu-Tiu-Basch (4413 m.).

Unnamed points 4369 m. and 4365 m. S. and N. of Freshfield's Pass.

Koja-ugu-ausch-tschaft-Baschi (3877 m.).—'Alpina,' 1914, p. 210.

HIMALAYAN NOTES.

DR. F. DE FILIPPI'S ASIATIC EXPEDITION.—The fourth Report of the work has now been received by the Royal Geographical Society, and by the courtesy of Mr. D. W. Freshfield, its President, we are permitted to reproduce an outline by Dr. de Filippi himself of the work of the expedition :—